AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1   1.   (Currently Amended) A server network comprising:

2   a plurality of cluster nodes connected via a SAN according to a SAN-based

3 protocol; and

4   at least first and second router nodes bridging the plurality of cluster nodes to a

5 LAN,

6   wherein the router nodes are connected to the plurality of cluster nodes via the

7 SAN according to the SAN-based protocol.

1   2.   (Previously Presented) The network of claim 1, wherein the router nodes are

2 connected to the LAN via a LAN-based protocol.

1   3.   (Previously Presented) The network of claim 2, wherein the LAN-based protocol

2 is TCP/IP.

1   4.   (Cancelled)

1   5.   (Currently Amended) The network of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the SAN-based

2 protocol is one of INFINIBAND INFINIBAND, Next Generation I/O (NGIO), and Future I/O

3 (FIO).

1   6.   (Cancelled)

1   7.   (Previously Presented) The network of claim 1, wherein the second router node

2 bridges to the plurality of cluster nodes after the first router node fails-over to the second router

3 node.

1   8.   (Previously Presented) The network of claim 1, wherein the first and second

2   router nodes bridge to the plurality of cluster nodes in parallel.

1   9.   (Previously Presented) The network of claim 1, wherein each router node

2   comprises a session management agent for maintaining session information for sessions between

3   the router node and a cluster node of the plurality of cluster nodes.

1   10.   (Previously Presented) The network of claim 1, wherein each router node

2   comprises a policy management agent for maintaining connection information and routing

3   policies for the plurality of cluster nodes.

1   11.   (Previously Presented) The network of claim 1, wherein each router node

2   comprises a routing agent for maintaining connection information for the plurality of cluster

3   nodes.

1   12.   (Previously Presented) The network of claim 1, wherein each router node

2   comprises a filter agent for bidirectional conversion between the SAN based protocol and a LAN

3   based protocol.

1   13.   (Previously Presented) A server network comprising:

2   a plurality of cluster nodes connected via a SAN according to a SAN-based

3   protocol; and

4   at least one router node bridging the plurality of cluster nodes to a LAN,

5   wherein at least one cluster node comprises a management node for setting

6   routing policies on the router node.

1   14.   (Previously Presented) The network of claim 13, wherein the management node

2   comprises a monitoring agent for obtaining statistics from the router node.

1   15.   (Previously Presented) The network of claim 1, wherein a cluster node of the

2   plurality of cluster nodes comprises a session management agent for holding session information.

1   16.   (Previously Presented) The network of claim 1, wherein a cluster node comprises

2   a policy management agent for maintaining routing policies for the plurality of cluster nodes.

1   17.   (Previously Presented) A method of bridging a remote LAN client and plural

2   SAN cluster nodes, comprising:

3   receiving a request to establish a connection from the remote LAN client;

4   in response to the received request, accessing information that maps service types

5   to respective SAN cluster nodes;

6   based on a service type specified by the received request and based on accessing

7   the information, selecting one of the plural SAN cluster nodes;

8   receiving a LAN protocol communication from the remote LAN client;

9   transforming the LAN protocol communication into a SAN protocol

10   communication; and

11   sending the SAN protocol communication to the selected one of the SAN cluster

12   nodes.

1   18.   (Cancelled)

1   19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

2   maintaining statistical information for the SAN cluster nodes.

1   20 - 21.   (Cancelled)

1   22.   (Previously Presented) A router comprising:

2   a session management agent to maintain session information for sessions with a

3 plurality of cluster nodes over a LAN;

4   a routing agent to maintain connection information for the plurality of cluster

5 nodes connected via a SAN according to a SAN-based protocol, wherein the connection

6 information maps service types to respective cluster nodes,

7   the routing agent to receive a service request that specifies a service type, and the

8 routing agent to select one of the cluster nodes based on the specified service type and the

9 connection information; and

10   a filter agent to convert between the SAN-based protocol and a LAN-based

11 protocol.

1   23.   (Original) The router of claim 22, further comprising:

2   a policy management agent to maintain routing policies for the plurality of cluster

3 nodes.

1   24.   (Previously Presented) The router of claim 22, wherein the connection

2 information comprises a policy table.

1   25.   (Previously Presented) The router of claim 22, wherein the SAN-based protocol

2 is different from the LAN-based protocol.

1   26.   (Previously Presented) The router of claim 22, wherein the connection

2 information further comprises information to indicate authentications to be performed for

3 respective service types.

1   27.   (Previously Presented) The router of claim 22, wherein the connection

2 information further comprises weighting factor information to indicate a proportion of service

3 requests to be directed to a respective cluster node for a particular service type.

1   28.   (Previously Presented) The network of claim 1, wherein the cluster nodes

2   connected via the SAN are viewed by a remote client as being assigned a single IP address.

1   29.   (Previously Presented) The network of claim 2, wherein each router node

2   includes an agent to convert between communication according to the SAN-based protocol and

3   communication according to the LAN-based protocol, the SAN-based protocol being different

4   from the LAN-based protocol.

1   30.   (Previously Presented) The network of claim 29, wherein each router node stores

2   session information to route data from remote LAN clients to the cluster nodes.

1   31.   (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

2   receiving, by a router, a service request from a client over a LAN that operates

3   according to a LAN-based protocol;

4   in response to the service request, the router accessing connection information

5   mapping service types to respective SAN nodes that are interconnected by a SAN that operates

6   according to a SAN-based protocol, the SAN-based protocol being different from the LAN-

7   based protocol; and

8   in response to a service type requested by the service request and based on the

9   connection information, the router selecting one of the SAN nodes to establish a connection

10   between the client and selected SAN node.